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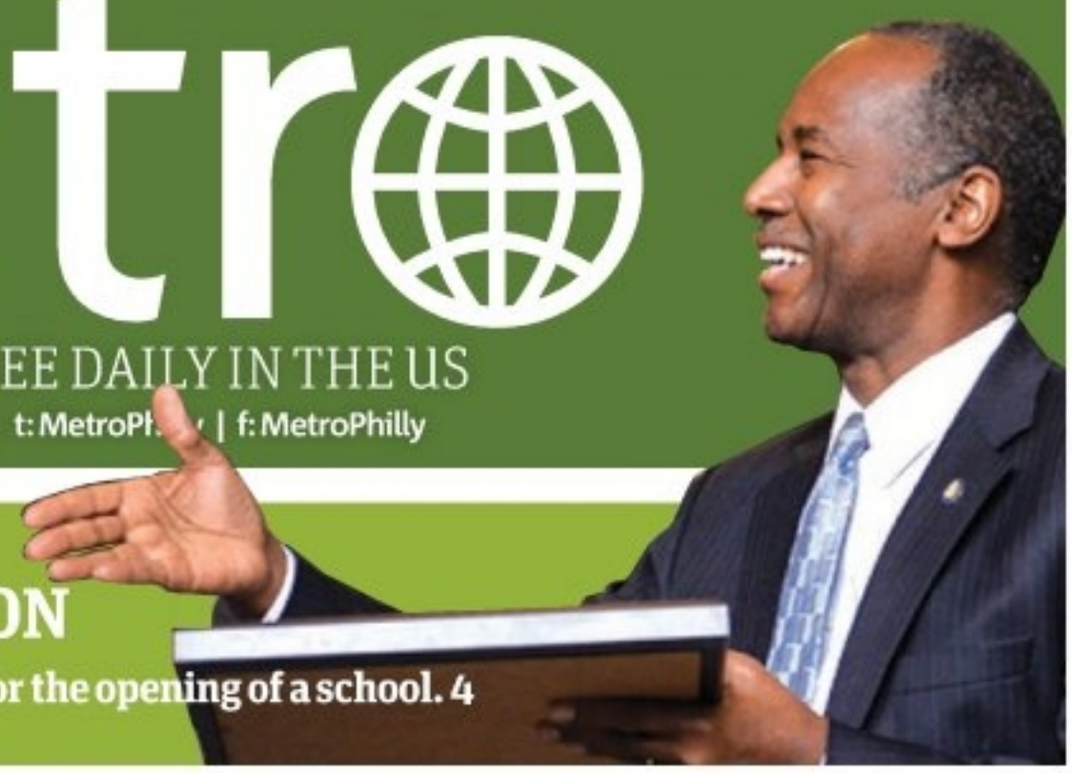

CARSON CUTS RIBBON

The secretary of HUD was in town for the opening of a school. 4

Where to buy second-hand furniture. 17

Fantasy football advice for NFL Week 3. 20

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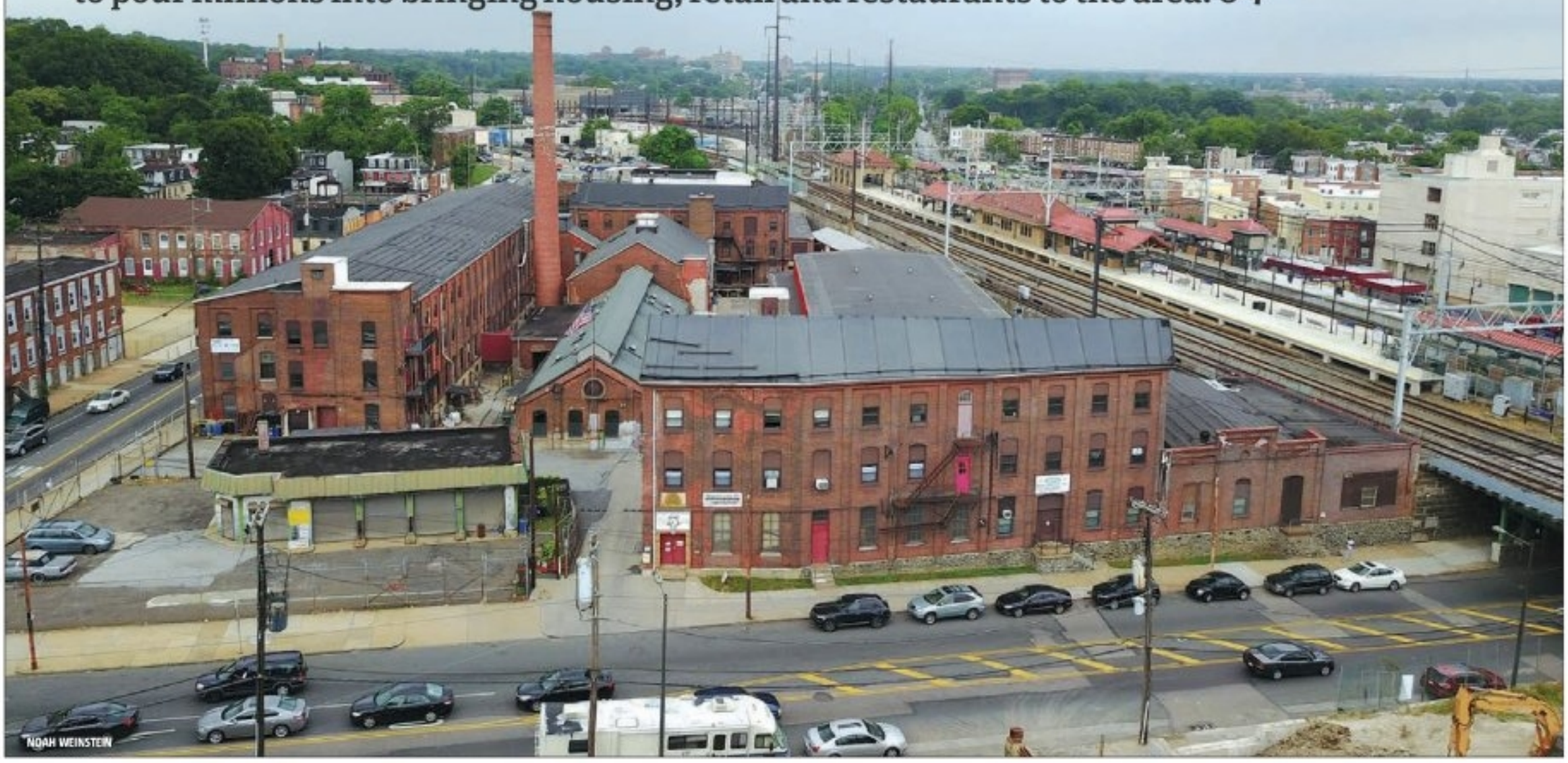
WAYNE'S WORLD

Wayne Junction might just be the next Fishtown, with a local developer planning to pour millions into bringing housing, retail and restaurants to the area. 6-7



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SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

If you think nothing has been going on in Philly lately, then you haven't been reading Metro. The area around Wayne Junction, the SEPTA station between Germantown and Nicetown, is now the target of a $12 million revitalization project that aims to bring new life into the historically industrial area. Meanwhile City Council members want to expand civilian oversight of police, and HUD secretary Ben Carson was in Sharswood. Read all about it inside and at **metrophilly.us.**

MARIA BEARS DOWN ON PUERTO RICO

1 Hurricane Maria, the second maximum-strength storm to hit the Caribbean this month, killed at least one person in Guadeloupe and bore down menacingly on the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico after devastating the tiny island nation of Dominica. Maria, a rare Category 5 storm at the top end of the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale, churned in the eastern Caribbean about 80 miles southeast of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, U.S. forecasters said. Maria was carrying maximum sustained winds of 165 miles per hour, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The "potentially catastrophic" storm was expected to pass over Puerto Rico on Wednesday. The storm plowed into Dominica late on Monday causing what Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit called "mind-boggling" destruction.

For more, see page 11

MCCONNELL: OBAMACARE REPEAL MUST MOVE FAST

2 The U.S. Senate's top Republican on Tuesday urged quick action on a bill to repeal Obamacare but stopped short of promising to bring it to the Senate floor for a vote, as the clock ticks down on the latest attempt to kill the 2010 healthcare law. Mitch McConnell, the Senate's Republican leader, called the legislation drafted by senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "an intriguing idea and one that has a great deal of support." Lawmakers should act because "our opportunity to do so may well pass us by if we don't act soon," McConnell said on the Senate floor. The bill has revived a fight that many in Washington thought was over when an Obamacare repeal-and-replace bill flopped in the Senate in July, humiliating McConnell and President Donald Trump.

MAJOR QUAKE HITS MEXICO

3 A major earthquake of magnitude 7.1 struck central Mexico on Tuesday, killing at least 116 people and trapping more in buildings that had collapsed or caught fire, officials said. A civil protection official said at least two deaths occurred in the state of Puebla near Mexico City. Media reported at least five deaths in the state, but that figure could not immediately be confirmed. The governor of the state of Mexico, Alfredo Del Mazo, reported two more deaths. "People are really scared right now," said dentist Claudia Meneses, who was in her clinic in Mexico City's Lindavista neighborhood when the earthquake struck mid-afternoon. "We're going to go to a building that fell to see if we can help." Earthquakes of magnitude 7 or above are regarded as major and are capable of causing widespread heavy damage.

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

O'REILLY: FIRING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL HIT JOB

4 Popular former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly, who was fired over allegations of sexual harassment, said on Tuesday he was the victim of a "political and financial hit job" and that he had never mistreated anyone in his 42-year career. In his first TV interview since being fired in April, O'Reilly, whose pugnacious "The O'Reilly Factor" was the most-watched cable news show, said he was brought down by sponsor boycotts and wider business decisions at Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. "This was hit job, a political and financial hit job," O'Reilly said in the interview on NBC's "Today" show. "There were a lot of other business things in play at that time and still today that 21st Century was involved with," he added. A Fox representative did not immediately return calls for comment.

TRUMP USING CAMPAIGN FUNDS TO PAY LEGAL BILLS

5 President Donald Trump is using money donated to his re-election campaign and the Republican National Committee to pay for his lawyers in the probe of alleged Russian interference in the U.S. election, according to two people familiar with the matter. The U.S. Federal Election Commission allows the use of private campaign funds to pay legal bills arising from being a candidate or elected official. While previous presidential campaigns have used these funds to pay for routine legal matters such as ballot access disputes and compliance requirements, Trump would be the first president in the modern campaign finance era to use such funds to cover the costs of responding to a criminal probe. One person familiar with the matter said the first payments has already been made and would be disclosed in public filings.

BILLS

Illinois' pile of unpaid bills topped $16 billion for the first time as the state deals with the fallout of an unprecedented two straight fiscal years without complete budgets, the state comptroller's office reported on Tuesday.

$16B

Source: Reuters

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Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson addresses a crowd at Vaux Big Picture High School on Tuesday. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Ben Carson cuts ribbon at Vaux, despite Philly outrage

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development — and former presidential candidate — was in town for the opening of a high school.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Ben Carson cut the ribbon at the new Vaux Big Picture High School on Tuesday, despite public concerns over his position as Secretary of the Federal Housing and Urban Development.

The former candidate for president, who was previously a neurosurgeon, marked the opening of the school at the intersection of 23rd and Master streets. Vaux had been created through a unique collaboration between the School District of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) and Big Picture Learning, a charter school operator.

"I don't think anywhere else in the city has there been a model like this," said City Council president, Darrell Clarke, during the celebration held during the school's opening.

Vaux Big Picture High School is described as an "internship-based, college preparatory experience" and, during Tuesday's event, Mayor Jim Kenney noted that the school will not be a charter or private school. Instead, he said, it is an open enrollment neighborhood public school in the Philadelphia School District.

With Carson in Philadelphia to cut the ribbon at Vaux, a protest had been planned, however, the city had seemingly prepared for the event with police roadblocks set up in a two-block wide perimeter all around the school. Though there was a protest, Carson wouldn't have seen it as no one was allowed in or out of the perimeter without the necessary credentials.

In taking his moment before a packed lobby at the school, Carson discussed the need for neighborhoods to support their schools, especially detailing the need for education in modern society.

"Our neighborhoods have to be complete places, nurturing places and I love the concept of public-private partnerships," he said. "When the community gets involved in the success of the neighborhood and of a school, that is something that remains there forever."

He said that, when you have a community in which a public-private partnership has a hand in creating a school — as happened at Vaux — and, community partners have a chance to make income from the success of the school, "you can pretty much guarantee that it's going to be successful."

As Carson spoke, the voices of the ninth-graders that filled the classrooms in the school behind him could be heard filling the air. Along the sides of the stage, some of the more than 500 students that attend the school flanked Carson as they listened to his words.

Carson said that at Vaux, "students will be able to explore the mysteries of math, science, [attend] classes on social studies, history, philosophy, civics, computers and sports activities to test the body and the will."

"To be truly educated, one needs to learn everything. Not just something from this group or something from that group, and you should never hear what the other group has to say," said Carson. "No, people who are educated are very difficult to manipulate and to control, and that should always be our goal in education."

During the day's celebration, Carson cut a large ribbon as the school's ninth grade class, set to graduate in 2021, held each end of the ribbon.

"There was a time in this country when it was illegal to educate a slave. Why do you think it was illegal?" asked Carson, turning to the students at his sides. "Because, even those immoral people knew that an educated man is a free man."

"When the community gets involved in the success of the neighborhood and of a school, that is something that remains there forever."

Ben Carson

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Wayne Junction, gateway to NW Philly, targeted for revitalization

Developer Ken Weinstein announced a bold plan to bring an abandoned area of Philly back to life.

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Right now, the area around Wayne Junction may not look like much. Large empty warehouses from Philadelphia's bygone industrial era stand over roads barren of pedestrian traffic, save for SEPTA commuters around the Regional Rail station, which was first built by the Reading Railroad company in the 1800s.

But among the blight and litter, developer Ken Weinstein sees opportunity. That's why he will invest $12 million into an adaptive reuse plan that will redevelop seven properties and create new office space, apartments and a vintage trolley-car style diner in the area as part of a plan he announced on Tuesday.

"The only way to change a place like Wayne Junction is to make many improvements all at once, and that's what we plan to do," Weinstein said after presenting the plan inside the former Blaisdell Paper Pencil Company on Berkeley Street. "People want to see something done, and they want to see blight removed from their community, and that's what we're going to do."

If it sounds farfetched, keep in mind that Weinstein has done this before. He is credited with revitalizing Mt. Airy by many, having developed multiple storefronts on Germantown Avenue near Allen's Lane two decades ago.

Around Wayne Junction, where rowhomes sell for as low as $100,000 and lower, neighborhood buzz about the area's untapped potential has been growing steadily in recent months.

Weinstein aims to redevelop some 122,581 square feet of existing real estate, with construction set to begin in 2018 to bring in tenants by 2019.

"This area is chockfull of historic buildings that are crying out to be restored," Weinstein said. "It should have been renovated earlier, but we're going to get that done now."

The plan also calls for new restaurants, a new local brewery, coffee shops, a co-working space, a dog park, the new headquarters of Philly Office Retail and streetscaping with new trees, lighting and murals.

"It's a good thing for the local economy. ... My only concern is bringing a package that looks like a done deal to the community and they didn't have input, they weren't in the mix," said Majeedah Rashid, COO of the Nicetown Community Development Corporation. "We just want to be

$12M

WEINSTEIN WILL INVEST $12 MILLION INTO A PLAN TO REDEVELOP PROPERTY IN THE WAYNE JUNCTION AREA

Ken Weinstein talks about Wayne Junction. PROVIDED

Buildings along Wayne Avenue near Wayne Junction, which is set to be developed by Philly Office Retail. NOAH WEINSTEIN

able to work together. ... There's a lot of businesses around here that probably don't even know this is going on."

Wayne Junction sits right on the border of Germantown and Nicetown. Multiple Regional Rail lines pass through the station, just two stops from Center City, and it is adjacent to Route 1. Rashid said the area could become "a real destination."

While Wayne Junction may not have been on everyone's radar, after his presentation on Tuesday, Weinstein was already meeting excited new neighbors and property owners interested in learning more about the project.

"To me, it's proof that people want to get behind something positive and exciting," he said. "And it's been overwhelmingly positive, the feedback that we've received."

A map of the proposed Wayne Junction development. PROVIDED

POLITICS

Ex-Trump campaign chief Manafort wants probe of leaks

Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign manager, lashed out on Tuesday at reports he was wiretapped by federal authorities, and his spokesman sent out a statement demanding a leaks probe and suggesting the surveillance was politically motivated.

The statement issued by spokesman Jason Maloni on behalf of Manafort came a day after CNN reported that a secret court had authorized surveillance of Manafort under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), under which Americans can be targeted if they are suspected of acting as an agent of a foreign country.

Manafort became Trump's campaign manager in June 2016 but was forced to resign two months later amid reports of his business relationship with the Kremlin-backed former Ukrainian leader, Viktor Yanukovich.

Manafort is being investigated as part of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

The court initially authorized FISA surveillance of Manafort in 2014 but that lapsed in 2016 for lack of evidence, CNN reported. FISA surveillance resumed later in 2016 and continued into 2017 as part of the FBI's probe into ties between Trump campaign associates and Russian operatives, CNN said.

"If true, it is a felony to reveal the existence of a FISA warrant, regardless of the fact that no charges ever emerged," Maloni said in the statement on behalf of Manafort.

"The U.S. Department of Justice's inspector general should immediately conduct an investigation into these leaks and to examine the motivations behind a previous administration's effort to surveil a political opponent," he said.

As part of the special counsel's probe, federal agents raided Manafort's Virginia home in July. The New York Times, citing two people close to the case, reported that prosecutors told Manafort they planned to indict him.

CNN said interest in Manafort deepened because of intercepted communications between him and Russian operatives, and among the Russians. The government eavesdropping continued into 2017, including a period when Manafort was known to talk to Trump after he became president. CNN said it was unclear if Trump was picked up on the surveillance. REUTERS

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If threatened, US will 'totally destroy' North Korea, Trump tells UN

Trump later also tweeted the line from his speech vowing to destroy North Korea.

Donald Trump escalated his standoff with North Korea over its nuclear challenge on Tuesday, threatening to "totally destroy" the country of 26 million people and mocking its leader, Kim Jong Un, as a "rocket man."

In a hard-edged speech to the United Nations General Assembly, Trump offered a grim portrait of a world in peril, adopted a confrontational approach to solving challenges from Iran to Venezuela, and gave an unabashed defense of U.S. sovereignty.

"The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea," Trump told the 193-member world body, sticking closely to a script.

President Trump gave a hard-edged speech at the U.N.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

As loud, startled murmurs filled the hall, Trump described Kim in an acid tone, saying, "Rocket man is on a suicide mission for himself and his regime."

His remarks rattled world leaders gathered in the green-marbled U.N. General Assembly hall, where minutes earlier U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for statesmanship, saying: "We must not sleepwalk our way into war."

Trump's most direct military threat to attack North Korea was his latest expression of concern about Pyongyang's repeated launching of ballistic missiles over Japan.

His advisers say he is concerned about North Korea's advances in missile technology and the few means available for a peaceful response without China's help.

A junior North Korean diplomat sat in the delegation's front-row seat for Trump's speech, the North Korean U.N. mission said. The mission did not immediately respond to a request for comment. REUTERS

UN chief says statesmanship is needed, takes digs at Trump

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed on Tuesday for statesmanship to avoid war with North Korea and criticized world leaders who stoke resentment over refugees for political gain, taking digs at President Donald Trump.

In his first address to the annual 193-member U.N. General Assembly since taking office in January, Guterres said the crisis over North Korea's nuclear missile program must be solved through a political process.

Trump has warned North Korea that military action was an option for the United States as Pyongyang has carried out a series of tests toward developing the ability to target the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile.

The U.N. Security Council has unanimously imposed nine rounds of sanctions on North Korea since 2006 and Guterres appealed for the 15-member body to maintain its unity on North Korea.

Guterres, a former head of the U.N. refugee agency, also spoke of being "pained to see the way refugees and migrants have been stereotyped and scapegoated – and to see political figures stoke resentment in search of electoral gain." REUTERS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reacted to Trump.

DEMOCRATIC REACTION

Democratic Senate leader calls Trump's 'Rocket Man' remark at UN 'risky'

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's characterization of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as "Rocket Man" during a speech to the United Nations was "risky."

"If I were giving the president advice, I would have said avoid using 'Rocket Man,'" Schumer said during a press conference at the U.S. Capitol. "We know the leader of North Korea is erratic, to put it kindly. That kind of language I think is risky." REUTERS

Chuck Schumer

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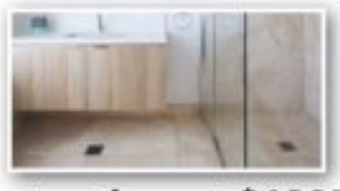

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Clarke, Jones seek to bulk up civilian oversight of police

City Councilman Curtis Jones Jr., left, and City Council President Darrell Clarke SAM NEWHOUSE

Councilmen say more funding needed to strengthen civilian review board for police complaints.

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City Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. deeply respects Philly cops, but he knows all too well that sometimes mistakes happen. In 2015, his own daughter, who was pregnant, had the door of her Southwest Philly home kicked down by law enforcement looking for a murder suspect who no longer lived there.

While she eventually received an apology from police, Jones is still bothered by the inadequacy of the process for civilians to file complaints.

"She should have been able to, the next day, fill out a form, go down to a particular location, and say, 'I got my door kicked in, and this was not fair to me and my children,'" he said. "You shouldn't have to be a councilperson's daughter to get justice."

To give the public more confidence in law enforcement, Jones and City Council President Darrell Clarke introduced legislation last week to give the police department's civilian review board — the Police Advisory Commission — a bulked-up, stable funding stream.

"They have never had enough money to actually perform their duties," Jones said. "When you have a committee that has two investigators, and the average time for an investigation is over two years, it renders that organization nonfunctional."

If the legislation passes, Council would ask voters to weigh a proposed charter change in the May primary that would give the commission a stable, minimum level of funding, set by Council — estimated at roughly $500,000. This money can be found in the existing budget, the councilmen asserted, and would stabilize the organization, which was created by executive order and does not have a steady budget from year to year, they said.

Clarke said the idea to strengthen this commission has been growing since the November election of President Donald Trump — and recent events like the acquittal of a St. Louis police officer who killed a black man, which sparked multiple protests in that city, make it even more urgent.

"We're not remotely close to St. Louis, but we can do better. We can make people feel better about the relationship between police and the community in the city of Philadelphia," Clarke said. "I believe the existing Police Advisory Commission needs to be changed. … If you're not going to fund it, you're not serious."

Complaints can also be filed through the police department's Internal Affairs Division, but some don't consider that process to be transparent and don't trust the police to police themselves.

The Police Advisory Commission currently has five of 13 positions filled, and new Executive Director Hans Menos starts Oct. 2. The previous director stepped down in February.

"We want to make sure people can trust a process and that if someone feels, 'I have a complaint,' someone is going to hear it and arbitrate that complaint and at least give me my day in court," Jones said.

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IF LEGISLATION PASSES, A PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGE WOULD GIVE THE COMMISSION ROUGLY $500,000 IN FUNDING

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Guys ... the world is not going to end this Saturday: NASA

Have you heard of Nibiru 2017? While a researcher has deemed Sept. 23 to be the end of the world, scientists at NASA say, "Get over it."

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA
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kimberly.aquilina@metro.us

If Nibiru 2017 is legit, can't it come on a Monday instead of a Saturday? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Are you ready for Nibiru?

Research scientist David Meade predicted the world will end on Sept. 23 when a brown dwarf planet named Nibiru surrounded by other planets collides with the Earth.

With multiple hurricanes pummeling islands and coasts, North Korea threatening nuclear Armageddon and white supremacists considered "very fine people" by the man in the highest office, it could easily feel like the world is about to end. But NASA senior space scientist David Morrison debunked the theory of Nibiru 2017, basically starting with the fact that Nibiru doesn't even exist and ending with, "Get over it."

Since Sept. 23 is fast approaching, the theory has been getting more attention. Evangelical Christian publication Unsealed posted a video, "September 23, 2017: You Need to See This" explaining the proffered prophesy.

And since the Rapture was supposed to happen a few times, Unsealed has clarified on the YouTube post, lest "scoffers" scoff, that it is only a sign and the Rapture "might not happen on this exact day."

"Jesus lived for 33 years. The name Elohim, which is the name of God to the Jews, was mentioned 33 times [in the Bible]," Meade told The Washington Post. "It's a very biblically significant, numerologically significant number. I'm talking astronomy. I'm talking the Bible … and merging the two."

Also, the solar eclipse, which Meade believes is an omen, took place on Aug. 21 — 33 days before Sept. 23.

Meade's prediction has been dismissed by NASA scientists and Ed Stetzer, a professor and executive director of Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center for Evangelism.

"There's no such thing as a Christian numerologist," he told The Post. "You basically got a made-up expert in a made-up field talking about a made-up event. … It sort of justifies that there's a special secret number code in the Bible that nobody believes."

Donald Trump Jr. ditches his Secret Service detail

Donald Trump Jr. is giving up his Secret Service protection and top White House adviser Kellyanne Conway is losing hers, moves sure to bring big savings to the financially-strapped agency.

A source close to President Donald Trump said Trump Jr, the president's eldest son, decided to cease his protective detail last week in favor of more privacy, The New York Times reported.

Kellyanne Conway will also no longer be protected by agents, but the paper did not say whether that decision was left to the senior White House official.

The Secret Service refused to confirm the information in a statement to USA Today saying, "to ensure the safety and security of our protectees and their families, we will not confirm who is currently receiving Secret Service protection."

Whatever the motives, the decision to suspend protective services is certainly a welcome move for the Secret Service. The agency's resources have been under intense strain since the Trump administration took over due to the size and lifestyle of the Trump family and the president's inner circle.

Donald Trump Jr. said goodbye to his protective Secret Service. GETTY IMAGES

The Secret Service has been scrambling to pay hundreds of agents and in August, Director Randolph "Tex" Alles said more than 1,000 agents had already hit federally mandated overtime pay caps meant to last them the entire year. ERIN TIERNAN

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Puerto Rico braces for Hurricane Maria

Metro Puerto Rico reported from the ground as Hurricane Maria's eye approached the island.

Puerto Rico is bracing for Hurricane Maria, and Metro Puerto Rico is there to cover it. METRO PUERTO RICO

The largest hurricane to cross Puerto Rico in nearly a century was about 200 miles from the island by Tuesday afternoon, and Metro Puerto Rico was ready to cover it.

Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm with sustained winds of 165 mph, has been cataloged as a "catastrophic" system by Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló.

"No generation has seen a hurricane like this since San Felipe II in 1928," the governor said.

In response to the emergency, the government has authorized 500 shelters with capacity for 66,826 refugees. However, early Tuesday morning, mayors of the municipalities were in a hurry to finish evacuating residents of the most vulnerable areas. At 11 a.m., 373 people were refugees, although the projection for the afternoon was thousands.

"All Puerto Ricans who have homes with zinc or wood ceilings have to evacuate," Rosselló said. "It is urgent that people move to safe areas, these will not be comfortable moments for Puerto Rico", he insisted.

Ernesto Morales — a meteorologist at the National Weather Service — reported that hurricane winds extended 30 miles from the center. Even with a fluctuation in trajectory, the island will experience hurricane-force winds.

The meteorologist said that there will be between 12 to 18 inches of rainfall and isolated areas with up to 24 inches; precipitation is expected to last for two days. DAVID CORDERO MERCADO

ON THE SCENE

A note from the editor-in-chief of Metro Puerto Rico

I remember one of my first journalistic assignments covering a catastrophe. It was Hurricane Georges in 1998. We saw great devastation throughout the island of Puerto Rico. Since then, Puerto Rico has not experienced a catastrophic emergency situation.

We have been lucky, but the truth is that this September has come with great force. Just a week and a half after Hurricane Irma, we are again facing the threat of a Category 5 hurricane, Maria. Fear and anxiety are perceived among residents of the island because a tropical system with such destructive power has not been seen for generations.

Most people expect rain and winds of such force that we know it will take a long time for Puerto Rico to get back to normal. We're committed to report on the impact of Maria and the recovery process ahead.

AIOLA VIRELLA

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Pursuant to the lien granted by the Pennsylvania Self-Service Storage Facility Act, 73 P.S. § 1901, et. seq., Metro Storage, LLC, as managing agent for Lessor, will sell by public auction (or otherwise dispose) personal property (in its entirety) belonging to the tenants listed below to the highest bidder to satisfy the lien of the Lessor for rental and other charges due. The said property has been stored and is located at the respective address below. Units up for auction will be listed for public bidding on-line at **www.Storagestuff.bid** beginning five days prior to the scheduled auction date and time. The terms of the sale will be cash only. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged per unit. All sales are final. Metro Self Storage, LLC reserves the right to withdraw any or all units, partial or entire, from the sale at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. All contents must be removed completely from the property within 48 hours or sooner or are deemed abandoned by bidder/buyer. Sale rules and regulations are available at the time of sale.

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Blac Chyna's rap dreams

Blac Chyna is still trying to make Blac Chyna happen. That's right. Chyna is still going for that whole rap thing.

An insider confirms that she's met with various labels, is collaborating with "very big" artists and will be announcing some "big news" soon.

Only problem is, she's not very good.

"Yes, she is trying to rap and no, [it's] horrible," a music source told Page Six. "All the majors are listening, and, sadly, she will likely get a deal. If she lands it, somebody will be stupid enough to give her a seven-figure advance."

It makes sense. Chyna has a lot more free time now that she and Rob Kardashian have settled on a custody agreement. And I'm sure $20,000 worth of Kardashian coins — the amount Rob is paying in child support — doesn't hurt, either.

Girl, I am not mad at you. But I am going to kindly pass on this one. Good luck, bb!

She's very serious about this new venture.

Jada isn't a Scientologist, exactly

Jada Pinkett Smith would like you to know that dabble as she may, she is not technically a Scientologist.

Via Twitter, the "Girls Trip" actress denied being part of the controversial church — even though just last week, former Scientologist Leah Remini insisted that Pinkett Smith was. "I know Jada's in. I know Jada's in. She's been in Scientology a long time," Remini told the Daily Beast.

She could try to be more convincing, maybe?

Pinkett Smith, 46, took matters into her own hands on Monday night. Long story short? She appreciates the merits of the cult, I mean religion, but she isn't a Scientologist.

"I have studied Dianetics, and appreciate the merits of Study Tech… but I am not a Scientologist." Mmkay!

"I practice human kindness," she continued. "And I believe that we each have the right to determine what we are and what we are not."

OK, sure. But what does Xenu think about all of this?

Scott Disick has inappropriate taste

Scott Disick is reportedly dating 19-year-old Sofia Richie — sister to Nicole Richie — because the world is ending, I guess.

The 34-year-old has reportedly made things official with Richie the Younger. And what does official look like between a young woman who was only recently considered an adult in the state of California and a dude in his mid-30s who is most famous for being a sidekick on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians?" Grabbing coffee and shopping at Barneys, of course!

And, no, you're not the only one with some concerns. "It's so weird," a source tells the magazine. "Sofia had been a family friend for years, and was close to Kendall and Kylie."

Disick most recently was linked with Bella Thorne — another 19-year-old. Boy, oh, boy, does he have a type these days! — who may or may not be an animate cannabis leaf with an affinity for Manic Panic. Which is a compliment!

Not exactly surprising.

How J.Law and Darren make it work

Jennifer Lawrence and Darren Aronofsky might seem like a random, mismatched couple on the surface but — wait, no. There is no "but" to speak of.

Seemingly mismatched. But maybe not, also! ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Nonetheless, the couple behind this year's most confusing film, "Mother!" make a great pair. At least, that's what co-star Javier Bardem says.

"Creatively speaking, both are very willing to go as deep as is necessary without being contaminated by it," he told The New York Times. "To create means to go from a place of neutrality to a place of imagination, where you build up something that didn't exist, and then go back to neutrality. Both are able to do that, which makes the experience much more pleasant."

Later, Aronofsky agreed, saying "It's always fun to be in a room with Jen. She's hilarious and real and truthful." Aw.

Looks like this one's for life! Which is not that long in Hollywood years. But whatever. I'm rooting for them, man!

Will Louis C.K. ever make season 6 of 'Louie'?

Producer Blair Breard on the comedian's future plans for the series.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroPhilly
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

Over the course of its first five seasons, Louis C.K.'s "Louie" revolutionized the comedy genre, taking it places that other writers, directors, producers, stars and comedians had ever considered.

Since the end of its fifth season in 2015, fans have been waiting patiently for details on a new batch of episodes. C.K. himself has repeatedly made it clear that he wants to focus on different projects. And clearly, the 50-year-old comedian hasn't budged in this stance. So much so that his longtime producer, Blair Breard, admitted that she doesn't bother talking to him about the future of the show anymore.

Blair Breard
GETTY IMAGES

"Who knows? Anything could happen," Breard said about whether or not a sixth season of "Louie" is in the pipeline. "He just did an interview at the TCA's and he said it would have to be very different. But it's not something that we talk about. … He's a writer and a director and a creator. He's always going to keep doing things that interest him. We'll see if the character of Louie calls for him in the future. But who knows?"

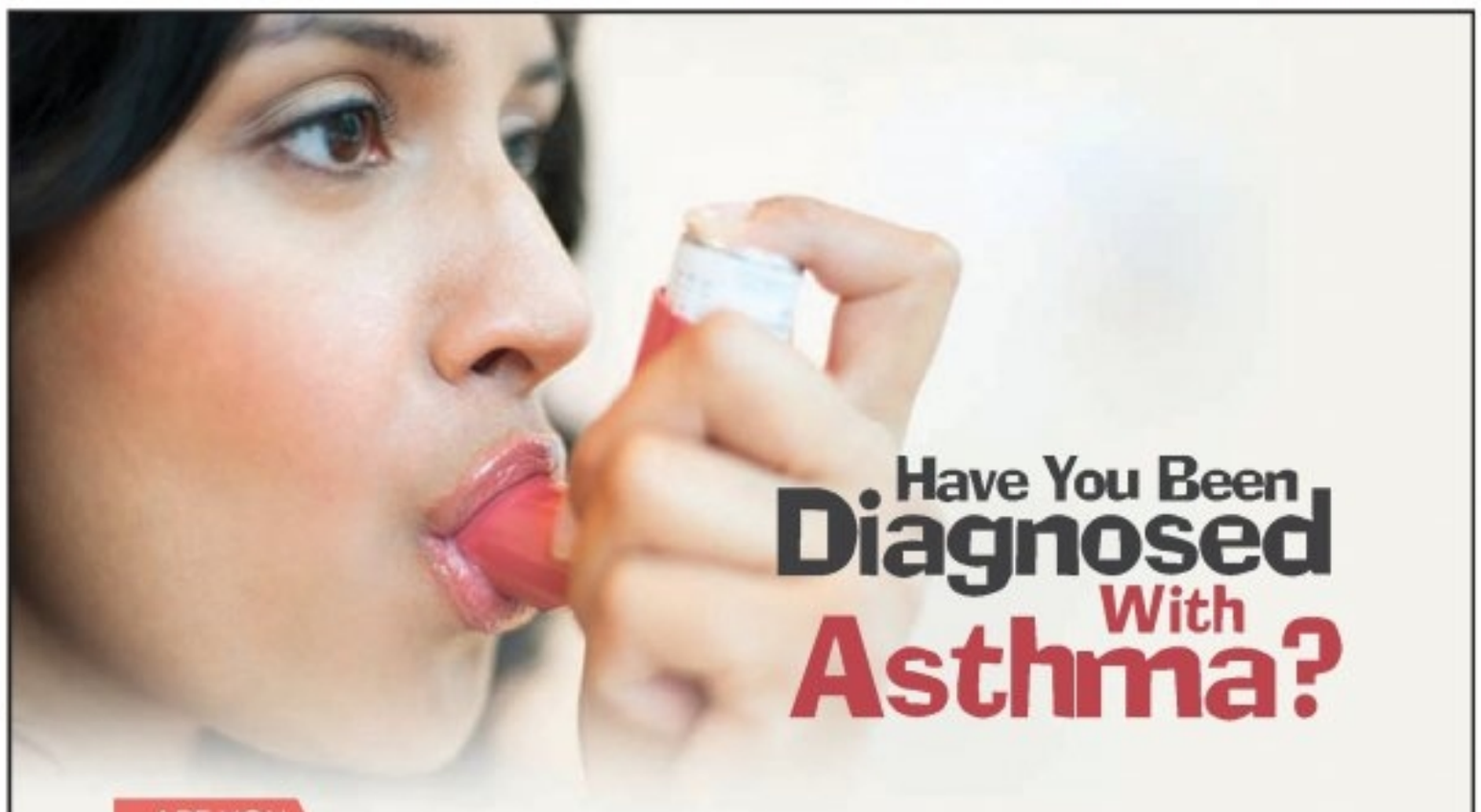
During his appearance at the Television Critics Association in August, C.K. suggested that even if he did return to the character, it wouldn't be for a while.

"I don't think the version of 'Louie' that was on FX, I don't think I'll do that exact version again. I just haven't been that guy for a while, with the stained blacked T-shirt and the two kids because they're older now. I always thought if I did 'Louie' again, I may go back to it later in a different version. No idea if I'll do it — I don't think about it much," C.K. told Variety.

It makes sense that C.K. hasn't given it much thought, because he has most recently been focused on his independently released television show "Horace and Pete," which Breard was an executive producer on, while he also debuted his feature film "I Love You, Daddy" at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this month.

Blair Breard was speaking ahead of her appearance at the IFP Week, which is taking place in various locations across Brooklyn this week and includes discussions with Barry Jenkins ("Moonlight"), Yance Ford ("Strong Island") and Julie Klausner ("Difficult People").

Louis C.K. mid-routine on his hit FX show. FX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What to expect from 'Outlander' this season

Scottish actor Richard Rankin talks the newest season of the Starz hit and taking on the role of Roger Wakefield.

JOSÉ BARRETO,
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Richard Rankin (Roger Wakefield), Caitriona Balfe (Claire Randall Fraser), Sophie Skelton (Brianna Randall) do some research. STARZ

"Outlander" is back and better than ever. And the third season has wasted no time getting its viewers back in the thick of things — Claire is back in 1948, but pregnant with the child of her husband from 1743. Spooky, right?

We chatted with the series' newest star, Richard Rankin, who plays historian Roger Wakefield, about preparing for the series, Scotsman pride, and what's new this season.

How did you prepare for the series? I imagine you read lots of books.

My preparation to do Roger was rather hard and extensive. And yes, in addition to reading all the books, I did a lot of historical research on my own. Roger is a very passionate historian. He is a history professor at Oxford University, so I went to that house of studies and got involved in projects where I thought my character would get involved.

As a Scotsman, what does it feel like to be part of a series that tells passages from the history of your country?

"Outlander" has had a pretty positive effect on Scotland, both in terms of tourism and its television industry. There are now tours that take people to the places where "Outlander" was filmed. This series represents Scotland in a profound way.

How would you describe the relationship between Roger and Brianna?

It is very peculiar. I love the relationship between them. It is really a whirlwind, what they live, both for their love and for their passion for history. He is at her side just as she begins to discover that her father is not her real progenitor, but an 18th-century warrior, and that her mother is a time traveler. In this season, it will be very interesting to see how the temporary jumps will affect their lives.

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The first and second season of "Outlander" differ a lot from each other. There are many new characters, humor, etc. What will be the big changes this season?

One of the greatest attractions of this series is precisely that of the radical changes in its story. Where else are you going to find a series that takes place in 18th-century Scotland and then moves on to the Paris of our times? You should expect more historical jumps and many more new characters.

Why else do you think the series connects so much with the public?

I think it captures very well the essence of the books. And people love the series for the same reason they love the Diana Gabaldon book series: It's an epic adventure, with very well-defined characters, a lot of drama and humor. It is as if history lives in each episode. The real and unreal come together and give a great result.

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Pamela Lynne Ramirez Unit 2227
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Stephen Starr is opening a new restaurant with Aimee Olexy

Here's what you need to know about neighborhood cafe, The Love.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Stephen Starr isn't resting on his laurels following his big wins at the 2017 James Beard Awards. In late October, he's opening a new restaurant called The Love (130 S. 18th St.) with Aimee Olexy of Talula's Table, Talula's Garden and Talula's Daily.

Located at 18th and Sansom, The Love will be two levels and feature 100 seats, divided between a main dining area, outdoor seating and an upper-level loft with a communal table for 20 people. Pennsylvania native, Chef Joshua Tomaszewski, is creating the menu for this cozy neighborhood cafe, which is based on seasonal and local ingredients with a focus on American cuisine. Olexy's beverage program of regional favorites will also accompany the food.

Olexy is behind Talula's Table, Talula's Garden and Talula's Daily. PROVIDED

"I'm eager and excited to share healthy, seasonal cooking and heartfelt hospitality in the fabulous Rittenhouse Square neighborhood," Olexy says of her new venture with Starr.

This is Starr's 34th restaurant. GETTY IMAGES

According to their website they are hiring all positions.

In a restaurant empire that includes locations in New York City, Atlantic City, Washington, D.C., Florida and of course, Philadelphia, this will be Starr's 34th restaurant nationwide and seventh in the Rittenhouse neighborhood itself, following Parc, The Dandelion, Barclay Prime, Butcher & Singer, Continental Mid-Town and Alma de Cuba. According to Philly.com, Starr likes bringing his restaurants to Philadelphia because housing is close to work and affordable for employees.

For more information, visit thelovephilly.com.

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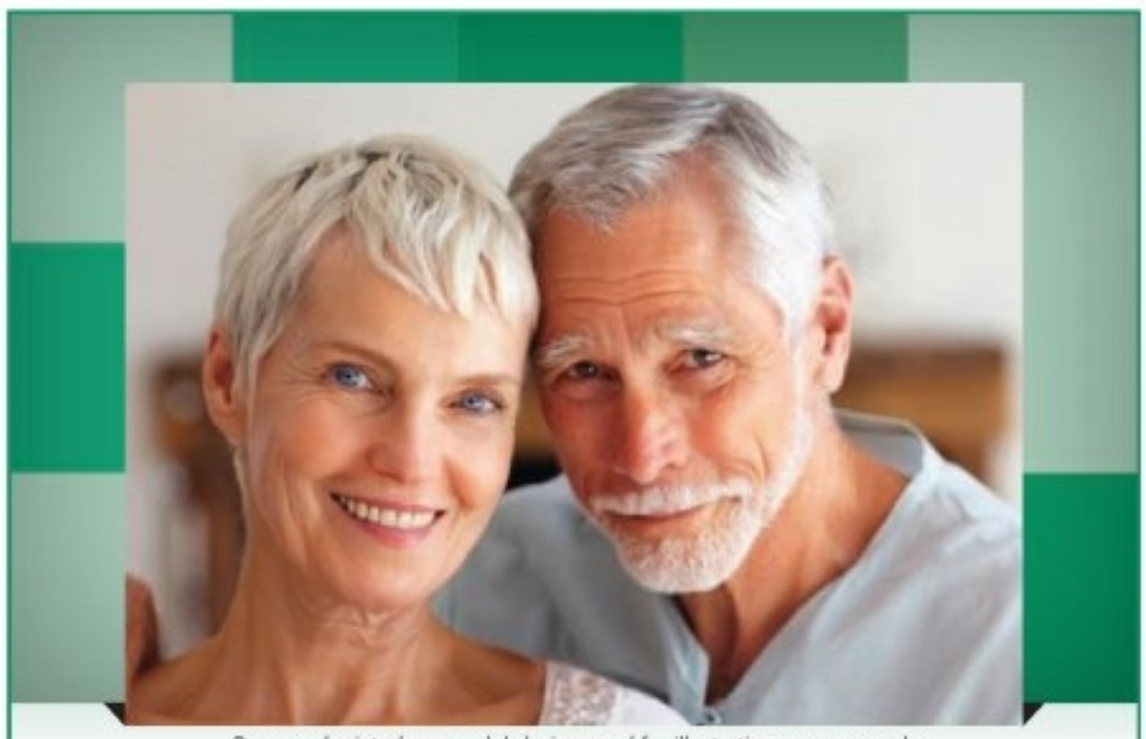

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How to survive a trip to Ikea

We asked three long-time Ikea employees for their best tips on how to survive a shopping trip and emerge victorious.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

How to have a successful day at Ikea: Come with an open mind, ask in-store experts for help and fuel up at the Ikea restaurant to avoid hangry shopping. ISTOCK

We love Ikea's clean Swedish lines, clever storage ideas and affordable prices — but walking into the store can still be overwhelming.

Even Rocky Brewer, who's been with the furniture giant for about 10 years, acknowledges that the experience of first walking in and seeing the size and selection of the store "is definitely a challenge for a lot of people."

Many a relationship has been tested on an Ektorp sofa or over a Hemnes coffee table. Choosing is already hard, but when there are so many choices and so many ways in which your boyfriend's furniture aesthetic really should've evolved beyond black by now.

This is where having a solid game plan and knowing how to navigate the store can make all the difference. And a few people will get even luckier when the Ikea Home Tour Squad knocks on their door to transform a space in their home with expert advice.

For their fourth cross-country tour, the squad will be coming to four cities: Philadelphia (applications open now through Sept. 24), New York/New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Boston, and you can submit a short video about a dream you have and how a little interior design magic can help make it come true.

Because the Home Tour Squad all come with years of experience on the Ikea sales floor, we got them to share their secrets to not feeling overwhelmed by the big blue box and making the most of your next Ikea shopping trip.

Come with an open mind

Arrive knowing what you need, but with an open mind on how to achieve it.

"The best mind-set is openness and to let yourself inspired," says Stephanie Recupero, one of the designers on the Home Tour Squad who's been with Ikea for over seven years. "The room settings that we have are a unique way to present how a home can be set up and how you can function in the space with that furniture. I think that's a great advantage to shopping at our store."

Take advantage of the in-store experts

When you're not at your shopping best, Brewer suggests relying on those who are: "The overall tip I would give to people is to be willing to seek help when you need it," he says. "There are co-workers all over the store who are knowledgeable and professional in their areas. They can really help people break down the needs of their space and help find the best solution."

Let your ideas digest

We learn early on to never shop hungry — but saving your meal at Ikea's restaurant for the middle of your shopping trip rather than the start can be helpful. "Sit down and enjoy your meal while going over your plans and get inspired through the catalog," suggests Jesse Myatt, the squad's cameraman and seven-year Ikea veteran. "It's a cool place to hang out and evaluate the rest of your shopping experience."

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Be stylish and savvy by buying second-hand furniture. KARI SHEA

Love where you live but want to change up the look of your place? You don't need to be rolling in money to be rolling in style these days — especially when you can buy second-hand furniture and housewares all over Philadelphia. From browsing the third floor furniture wonderland at Philly Aids Thrift to scoring sweet vintage furniture finds on the Jinxed Instagram page, you can have a Pinterest-worthy pad while still saving money.

Rejuvenated Furniture and Finds
7430 Frankford Ave.
rejuvenatedfurniture.com
Founded in 2003, Rejuvenated Furniture and Finds "upcycles" vintage furniture, giving it new life through a refurbishing process. Need a china cabinet for your dining room? A cozy country desk for your study? A conversation-starting coffee table? Go here and get it for a bargain.

Jinxed
1331 Frankford Ave.
1050 N. Hancock St.
1835 E. Passyunk Ave.
4521 Baltimore Ave.
jinxedphiladelphia.com
With locations all around the city, Jinxed is bursting at the seams with second-hand finds of all kinds, including furniture. While scoping things out in person is always ideal, not everyone has the time to hop from store to store in their search, which is why the Instagram account for Jinxed is so helpful. Whenever they have super cool pieces of furniture, they post them for sale there first — so you can easily shop while you're waiting in line for coffee or from the comfort of your bed on a rainy weekend morning.

Philly Aids Thrift
710 S. 5th St.
phillyaidsthrift.com
On this particular stop on your furniture expedition, proceed directly to the third floor, where all of the furniture is located. From sofas to dining room tables to paintings to ornate wall mirrors, the stock is constantly changing depending upon donations. What's more, proceeds from sales at Philly Aids Thrift get distributed to HIV/AIDS organizations in Philadelphia. Shopping here is a win-win-win for all involved.

UHURU Furniture and Collectibles
832 N. Broad St.
uhurufurniturephilly.blogspot.com
In business for over 20 years, UHURU Furniture and Collectibles donates 100% of their profits to African People's Education and Defense Fund. Find everything from sofas to tables to chairs to desks to paintings. If you want to take advantage of their Back to School Sale, you have until Sept. 30 to get 10% off your total purchase if you spend $100 or more. Bought a lot of stuff and don't have enough space?[tab]They'll even pick up your furniture donations for free.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
2318 Washington Ave.
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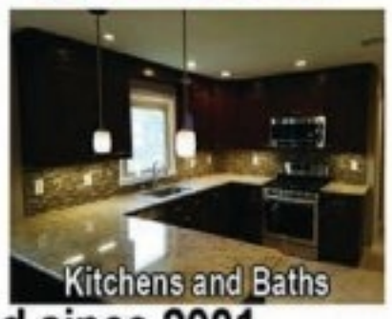

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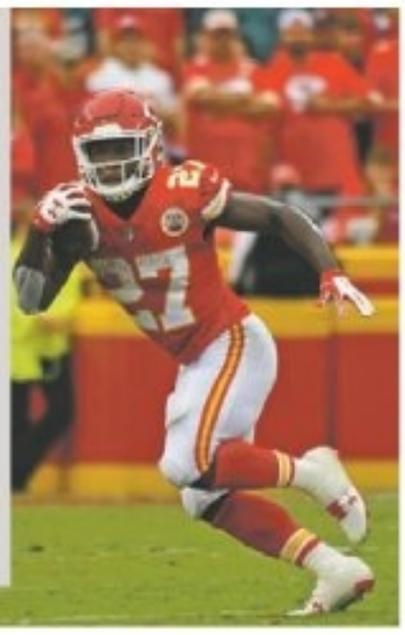
NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Chiefs
2-0 (W vs. PHI)



Kareem Hunt is showing a serious knack for the big play. His 53 yard touchdown run sparked the Kansas City offense in the second half. Chris Jones had the game of the weekend: three sacks, an interception, and two forced fumbles.

No. 2

Raiders
2-0 (W vs. NYJ)

Michael Crabtree and the entire Raiders offense turned in the most impressive offensive performance of the week. Three scores for Crabtree came alongside a 53-yard Jalen Richard scoring dash and a 43-yard Cordarrelle Patterson scamper to the end zone to break the Jets defense wide open.

No. 3

Falcons
2-0 (W vs. GB)

This Sunday night duel wasn't much of one before the Pack came storming back. Maybe it was a little too reminiscent of the Super Bowl by the end, but the Falcons pulled this one out much more impressively than last week in Chicago thanks to a solid run game.

No. 4

Patriots
1-1 (W at NO)

Tom Brady took advantage of the Week 2 matchup with the Saints secondary to quiet any doubters after a Week 1 loss. 447 yards on just 39 attempts and three touchdowns to three different receivers. The Patriots offense is looking as dangerous and multifaceted as ever, and Brandin Cooks is barely featuring.

No. 5

Steelers
2-0 (W vs. MIN)

An off-season away from the team continues to display its toll on Le'Veon Bell, who had 91 yards on 31 touches and no play longer than 11 yards. Wide receiver Martavis Bryant however, has returned from his suspension in spectacular fashion — highlighted by his 51 yard touchdown catch Sunday.

No. 6

Broncos
2-0 (W vs. DAL)

That may just have been the Broncos most impressive win since the 2015 Super Bowl. It's amazing what having a rushing game can do for your passing game even with Trevor Siemian. Last year, nothing was clicking for the Broncos on offense. This year everything is.

No. 7

Packers
1-1 (L vs. ATL)

Tough first two games for Green Bay, who certainly seem more equipped to find a way to score on a defensive powerhouse than slow down an offensive one. To their credit, it could have finished really ugly, and in contrast to the Denver-Dallas game, that didn't happen.

No. 8

Buccaneers
1-0 (W vs. CHI)

The Buccaneers cruised in their 2017 debut against Chicago, but the offense will face a much tougher opponent next week when they travel to Minnesota. Keep an eye on whether Peyton Barber, who averaged 4.7 yards per carry, plays a bigger role.

No. 9

Lions
2-0 (W at NYG)

If he's healthy, there's no doubt Ameer Abdullah will be the featured back in Detroit. Just see his 32 carries through two games and Theo Riddick's 10. He'll be well appreciated too, since Riddick led the team with just 357 yards a year ago.

No. 10

Seahawks
1-1 (W vs. SF)

The Seahawks still have great moments — see, Russell Wilson pulling a touchdown out of nowhere by escaping pressure and placing a third down pass. But the problem nowadays is they needed that moment to beat the 49ers at home.

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18 — Redskins (1-1)
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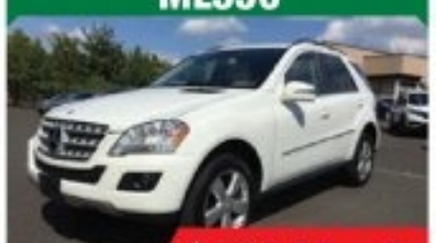
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FANTASY FOOTBALL ADVICE HEADING INTO WEEK 3

Chris Carson should be treated as the primary starter in Seattle. GETTY IMAGES

Heading into Week 3, we look at a pair of RB situations in the NFC, a high riser in Arizona and a few guys you should take a hard look at on the waiver wire.

Carson the top dog in Seattle

Coming into the season, it looked like Seahawks fans would be treated to some combination of Thomas Rawls, Eddie Lacy and C.J. Prosise.

After their Week 2 win over San Francisco, it looks as though there is a fourth name to add to the mix. With Thomas Rawls still recovering from an ankle injury and Eddie Lacy a healthy scratch (he's now all but forgotten in fantasy), it was 24-year-old Chris Carson who led the backfield with 20 carries for 93 yards. C.J. Prosise seems locked into the passing-down role, but with Lacy now out of the picture and Rawls not at 100 percent, Carson should be treated as the primary starter for the Seahawks. While it's fair to speculate on whether or not the Seattle offensive line will provide any room to run for any back, it's the role and the usage that matters here.

A nod to Nelson

With the Cardinals offense reeling after the loss of David Johnson, an unlikely name has risen to the top of the fantasy priority list. Assumed third (if not fourth) wide receiver J.J. Nelson has easily been the most productive offensive weapon for the Cardinals through two weeks, tallying 10 catches for 163 yards and two touchdowns. Veteran Larry Fitzgerald is still the No. 1 option on the depth chart, but he lacks the speed and field-stretching abilities that Nelson brings to the table. With John Brown still dealing with injuries in addition to a sickle cell trait that is an ever-looming concern, Nelson is going to have a firm role in an offense that is going to be entirely dependent on the pass with it's best runner on the shelf for most of the season.

Howard doomed?

Jordan Howard was drafted as a late-Round-1, early-Round-2 feature back, and to this point he has been the ultimate draft bust. With rookie Tarik Cohen coming on as the pass-catching option and some sort of arm injury holding him back, Jordan Howard has gone form RB1 to desperate flex play in just two weeks. While I don't see him being phased out of the offense given how successful he was last year, it's incredibly tough to start Howard currently. He should be able to regain some of his former glory should Cohen go down with an injury or if his production fades, but for the time being you can't ignore Howard's loss of role and completely ineffectiveness through two games. It's not quite time to consider dropping or trading him, but it is time to seriously consider whether or not you have a better running back option that you can start this week.

BILL DUBIEL

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert and lead NFL columnist for Rotoballer.com.

Pickups of the week

Ed Dickson, TE, Panthers - With Greg Olsen out with a broken foot for the foreseeable future, backup tight end Ed Dickson will see the majority of snaps at tight end for the Panthers. He has a tasty matchup against the Saints in Week 3.

Trevor Siemian, QB, Broncos - Siemian has proven himself to be a capable backup QB for fantasy purposes with six touchdowns through the first two weeks. He gets the Bills in Week 3, and the Broncos will likely have to throw to move the ball.

Jermaine Kearse, WR, Jets - Kearse is separating himself as the only fantasy viable pass-catcher on the Jets roster, and with 11 catches and two touchdowns through the first two weeks he should carry flex value going forward.

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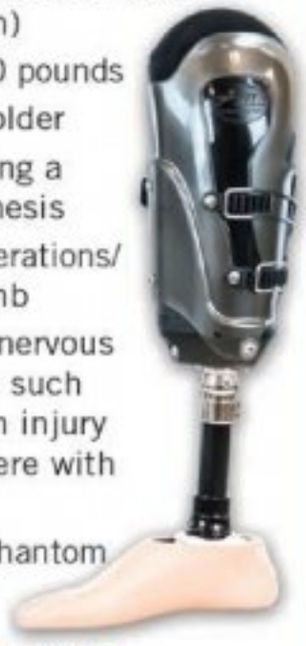

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SUMMONS

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We Pickup

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We will pick up

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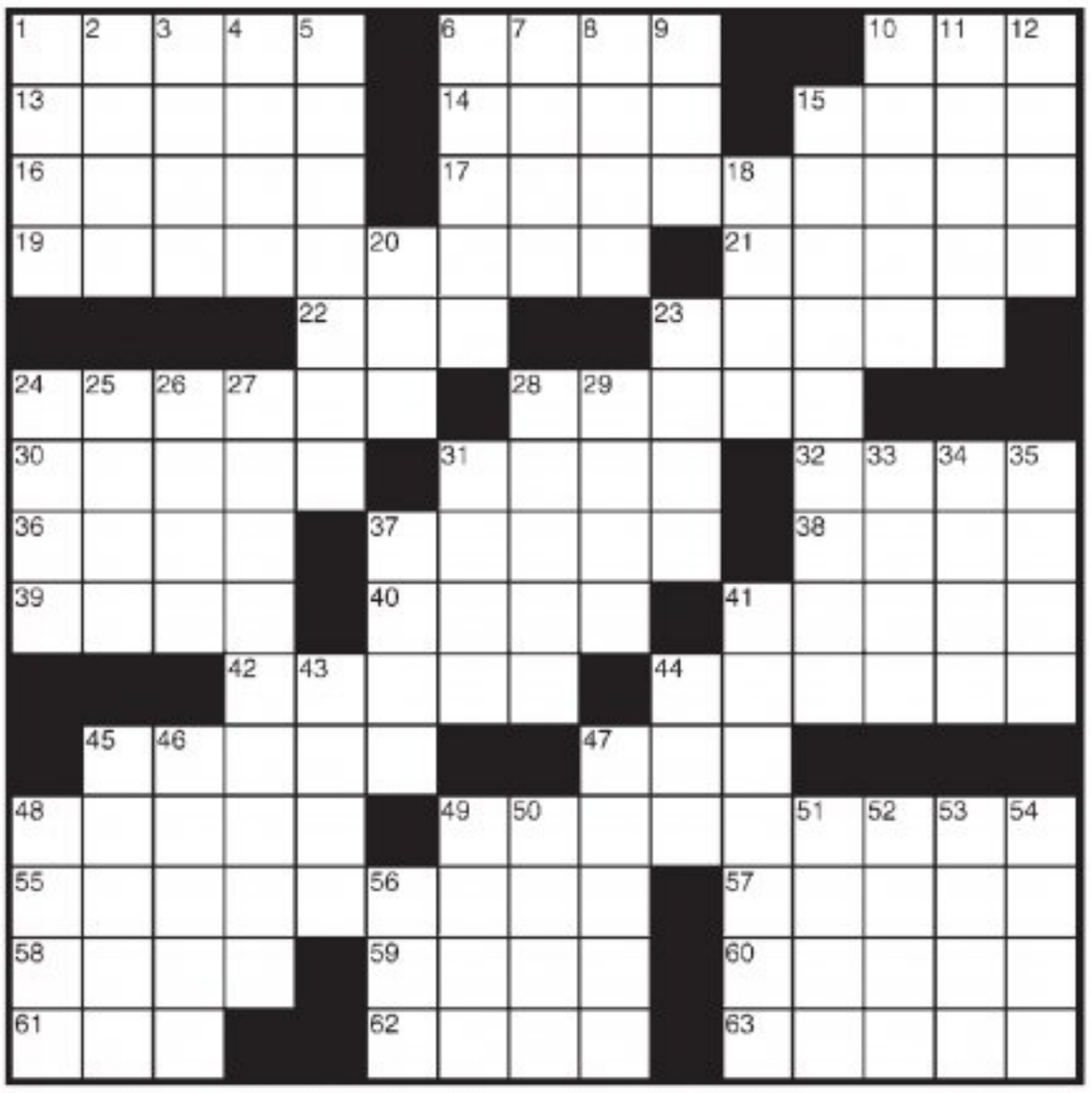
Across
1 Canine cries
6 Encourage
10 Sauna site
13 Kayak user
14 Jalopy
15 IOU
16 Saddle extra
17 Attacker
19 New Hampshire sch.
21 Type in again
22 Thousand gees
23 Collapsed
24 Gymnast's horse
28 Nearby
30 Oil-well capper Red --
31 Lady's honorific
32 Costa --
36 Punsters
37 Educator -- Montessori
38 Sufficient, in verse
39 "Hud" Oscar-winner
40 Old-time oath
41 First name in cosmetics
42 Look forward to
44 Wyoming range
45 Rot (2 wds.)
47 Golfer's
48 Seeded
49 Having flaws
55 Invalidates
57 Delight
58 Works by Keats
59 Mixed bag
60 Epsom --
61 Baseball club
62 TKO officials
63 Pinch

Down
1 Textile measure
2 Director -- Kazan
3 King in a play
4 Golfer's tap
5 Hem and haw
6 Self-mover's rental (hyph.)
7 Take it easy
8 Deep cut
9 It banned DDT
10 Jiggle
11 Yearned deeply
12Courtroom fig.
15 Smartest
18 Retirees' kitties
20 Olive yield
23 Comet cloud
24 Dupe
25 Comics dog
26 First name in spying
27 Identifies incorrectly
28 Gem measure
29 Put in place
31 Astrologers of old
33 Wild about
34 Film director Joel --
35 Impresses deeply
37 Anthropologist Margaret --
41 Strangest
43 Dry riverbed
44 Jaunty lid
45 Dutch export
46 Young raptor
47 Senor's wherewithal
48 Stuck-up person
49 Digestive fluid
50 Vinland explorer
51 Popular side dish
52 Robust
53 Wonder Woman's friend
54 Office need
56 Gift-tag word



metro.us/sudoku

easy

6								
		1		8			3	
4				1	5			8
9	3	4		5		7		
		8	2		9	6		
		2		3		4	9	1
2			7	9				4
	4			2		3		
								5

hard

6								3
		3		4				1
	9	4			1		7	
			4	8	5		9	
	7		1		3		2	
	5		2	9	7			
	4		6			2	1	
2				1		5		
8								9

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Emotions will surface when dealing with partnership issues. Stay calm, since getting all worked up won't make matters better. Listen to complaints and adjust.

Taurus Interaction should be your intent. Sharing your thoughts and ideas with like-minded people will encourage you to talk about your ideas, but also implement them.

Gemini Your dual personality will cause uncertainty and make you appear inconsistent when it comes time to make a decision. Listen to whatever advice is offered.

Cancer Make a physical change that will lift your spirits and give you greater incentive to get out and enjoy life. A proposal should be seriously considered.

Leo An opportunity to do something you enjoy and earn a living is within reach. Refuse to let someone stifle your plans with negativity.

Virgo Self-awareness, preparation and development will help you move closer to your goal. A unique approach will cause others to take note of you.

Libra Emotional matters will leave you feeling exhausted. Don't start something you cannot finish. Look for refuge with someone you view as reliable and trustworthy.

Scorpio Ask and you shall receive. What you have to offer is more valued than you realize. Stand tall and be proud of your actions and creations. Romance is highlighted.

Sagittarius Before you move on to more enjoyable tasks, be sure to take care of your responsibilities. Being dependable will help you avoid complaints.

Capricorn Tidy up loose ends. Avoid anyone pushing a risky venture. Go it alone if you want to control how your money is spent. Joint ventures look dicey.

Aquarius A money deal will bring you good returns. Invest more time in yourself and your talents. Greater interest will be shown if you market what you have to offer.

Pisces Put your best foot forward and share your thoughts. You'll encounter someone who is on the same page as you and has something special to offer. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

N	E	W	T	■	M	E	D	I	C	■	T	I	F	F
I	D	E	A	■	A	K	I	T	A	■	A	G	U	A
B	I	L	K	■	R	E	S	E	N	T	M	E	N	T
S	E	L	E	C	T	■	■	R	E	W	A	R	D	S
■	■	■	S	H	Y	L	Y	■	S	I	L	■	■	■
D	A	F	O	E	■	I	O	N	■	N	E	P	A	L
A	L	O	U	■	P	O	M	A	D	E	■	A	G	A
M	E	N	T	I	O	N	■	C	U	D	D	L	E	D
O	T	T	■	S	E	E	T	H	E	■	R	E	N	E
N	A	S	A	L	■	L	E	O	■	H	O	D	A	D
■	■	■	R	E	D	■	A	S	K	E	W	■	■	■
S	K	I	T	T	E	R	■	■	O	Y	S	T	E	R
U	N	D	I	S	M	A	Y	E	D	■	I	O	T	A
E	E	L	S	■	O	P	E	R	A	■	N	U	N	C
D	E	E	T	■	S	T	A	R	K	■	G	R	A	Y

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